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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS

: Jean-Louis ASSIE et al

SERIAL NO.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the same as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 7 of this paper.

The Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.